



Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Supporting Comments – Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc.
Petition for Waiver of the Definition of “Study Area”, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I want to ask for your favorable consideration and approval of the Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. petition for waiver. The granting of the waiver is so important to Hawaiian Home Lands residents, like me, who have been deprived of the modern conveniences that are taken for granted by city folks.

I live in an area called Puukapu, a very rural and remote part of the Big Island of Hawaii. For over a decade, and prior to 2001, my neighbors and I had been without basic, reliable and affordable telephone service. To communicate with others, especially if we had an emergency, some of us would jump in our trucks and drive several miles to our nearest neighbor or to town. Others would rely on costly and unreliable cell phone service. Today, thanks to Sandwich Isles Communications, we have reliable and affordable telephone service. And, we did not have to pay for the construction cost to get us dial tone.

We have done without regular telephone service for over a decade, because the telephone facilities of other providers stopped in town. If we wanted service, we were required to pay for the construction to get us dial tone, and it was just too costly.

I am convinced that if you never granted the study area waiver previously or with the current petition by Sandwich Isles Communications, we would not have modern, reliable and affordable telephone service today. Accordingly, I urge your speedy and favorable determination, so that other bypassed and new Hawaiian Home Lands residents are never without phone service.

Sincerely,


Mr. & Mrs. Joseph K. Kealoha

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